Watchmen Chapter 5 – Fearful Symmetry

Graphic Novel – Mr. Daniels

Note these panels listed below and find the symmetrical objects or ideas between them.

Page 7, Panel 6

Page 9, Panel 6 and Page 10, Panel 1

Page 11, Panel 9 and Page 12, Panel 1

Page 13, Panel 1

Page 16, Panel 8

Page 19… (Look closely)

Page 19, Panel 7 and Page 20, Panel 1

Page 22, Panel 6

Page 28, Panel 9

Pages 14/15

Pages 13/16

Pages 12/17

Pages 11/18

Pages 10/19

Pages 9/20

Pages 8/21

Pages 7/22

Pages 6/23

Pages 5/24

Pages 4/25

Pages 3/26

Pages 2/27

Pages 1/28

The composition of this panel along with its mate on the facing page is quite striking. There is a giant 'V' on the wall behind the action, symmetric and, of course, the letter of this chapter. If Adrian and the assassin were not in the foreground, no doubt it would reflect in the water, making an 'X', which is horizontally, vertically and rotationally symmetrical. As it is, however, there is a suggestion of an 'X' made by the foreground figures. At the endpoints of the 'X', there are three faces and a gun: The Egyptian head symbolizing death, the gun being an instrument of death, and Adrian and the assassin representing a murderer and his target--yet which is which? Even without the underlying knowledge of where the story is heading, the immediate truth is that the apparent roles have been reversed.